TOMB OF DRACULA

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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THE MOST BIZARRE VAMPIRE THRILLER EVER!

THE TOMB OF DRACULA™

COMICDOM'S NUMBER 1 FEAR MAGAZINE

THE LORD OF THE UNDEAD BATTLES THE POWER OF
ROBIN HOOD! FRANKENSTEIN! D'ARTAGNAN!
AND OTHER GREAT SHOCK STARS!

DO NOT REVEAL THE SURPRISE ENDING OF...
"THERE SHALL COME DEATH!"

Five hundred years ago he was killed...but he *did not die.* Today, *Quincy Harker, Frank Drake, Rachel Van Helsing,* and *Blade,* the Vampire Slayer— stalk him...as this unliving Lord of Vampires spreads his reign of terror across a twentieth century world.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **TOMB OF DRACULA!**

MARV WOLFMAN WRITER / EDITOR • GENE COLAN & TOM PALMER ARTISTS • JOHN COSTANZA letterer • MICHELE WOLFMAN colorist

...AND WITH THE WORD THERE SHALL COME DEATH!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR *CHURCH OF THE DAMNED* TO TAKE ROOT, DARK LORD...

...TO GROW AND TO *PROSPER.*

BUT FOR *THAT,* EVEN THE DARK LORD SATAN MUST HAVE *MONEY.*

I AM AWARE OF THAT, ANTON LUPESKI.

AND, ALREADY I HAVE MADE A LIST OF *PREPARATIONS* WE MUST MAKE.

WE SHALL WATCH OUR SMALL CULT *GROW* UNTIL ITS BRANCHES TOUCH THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF THE ENTIRE *HUMAN RACE!*

LUPESKI REMOVES HIS DEATH'S HEAD MASK, AND A FACE WHICH SEEMS AS IF IT HAS SEEN DEATH CLOSE UP PEERS OUT AT HIS MASTER.
A LIST, SIRE?
YOU THINK I HAVE NO FOLLOWERS IN THIS LAND ALREADY?

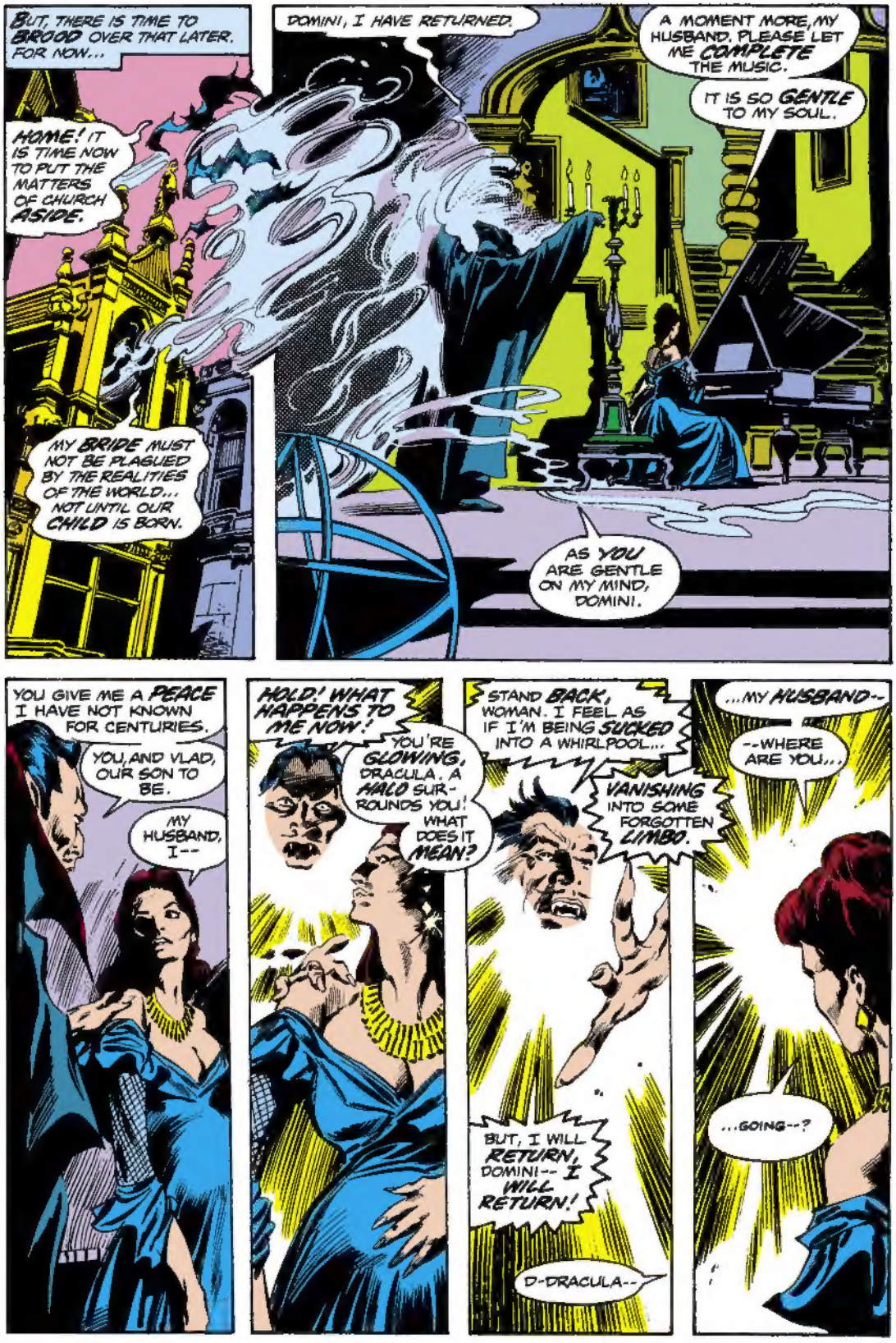
I HAVE TOUCHED THE MINDS OF MANY MEN HERE IN MY PAST.
AND I HAVE ALWAYS INSURED MYSELF FOR POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES BY ENGAGING IN FRIENDSHIP WITH THE MOST WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL MEN OF ALL.
YOU WILL FIND ON MY LIST THE NAMES OF FINANCIAL WIZARDS, OF POLITICAL GENIUSES, EVEN THE NAME OF ONE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT!

THEY WILL GIVE YOU MONEY WHEN YOU SHOW THEM MY ORDERS.
NOW, YOU GO, DO AS I COMMAND, FOR I HAVE BUSINESS ELSEWHERE...
...WITH MY WIFE AND LOVE--DOMINI!

HAVE FAITH, LUPESKI--THE CHURCH OF SATAN SHALL BLOSSOM UPON THE EARTH!

FAREWELL, DARK LORD, OR SHOULD I CALL YOU DRACULA?
YOU GO AND DO MY WORK FOR ME, AND WHEN YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED I WILL WATCH YOU SLOWLY DIE!
HA
HA
FAREWELL, DRACULA--FAREWELL!
HA
HA

INTRIGUE AND COUNTER-PLOTTING. SUCH IS THE WAY OF MEN WITHOUT CONSCIENCE. BUT, WE ARE NOT HERE TO PASS JUDGEMENT UPON OUR CAST OF CHARACTERS. RATHER, WE OBSERVE THEM FROM A DISTANCE...
...AND WE BECOME FRIGHTENED IN OUR HEARTS THAT SUCH MEN AS THESE EXIST, AND OUR WELFARE MUST ULTIMATELY REST IN THEIR HANDS.
CONSIDER THAT MATTER, GENTLE READER. YOUR FATE IS CONTROLLED BY DEMONS! NOT A PLEASANT THOUGHT, IS IT?

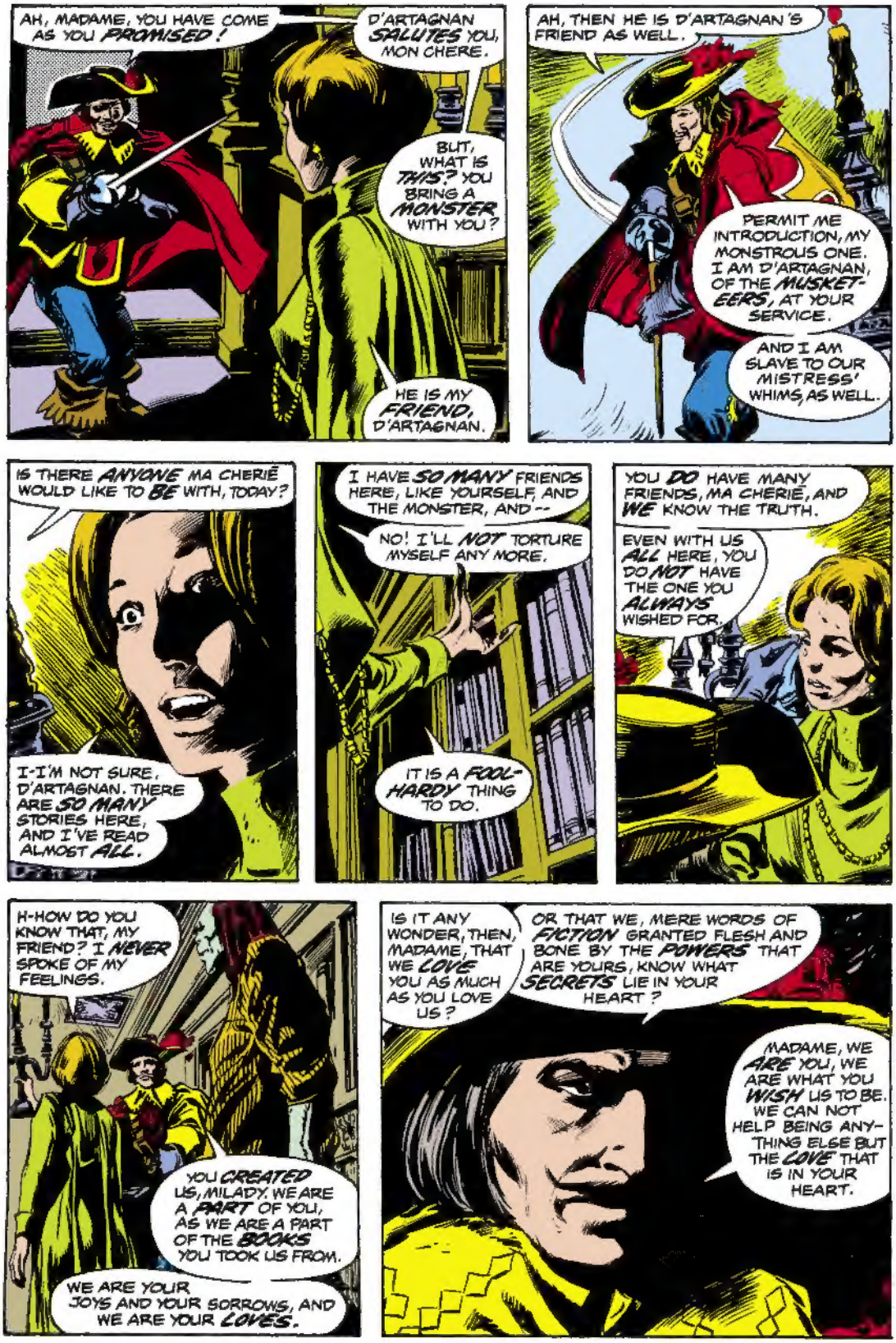

BUT, THERE IS TIME TO BROOD OVER THAT LATER. FOR NOW...
HOME! IT IS TIME NOW TO PUT THE MATTERS OF CHURCH ASIDE.
MY BRIDE MUST NOT BE PLAGUED BY THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD... NOT UNTIL OUR CHILD IS BORN.
DOMINI, I HAVE RETURNED.
A MOMENT MORE, MY HUSBAND. PLEASE LET ME COMPLETE THE MUSIC.
IT IS SO GENTLE TO MY SOUL.
AS YOU ARE GENTLE ON MY MIND, DOMINI.
YOU GIVE ME A PEACE I HAVE NOT KNOWN FOR CENTURIES.
YOU, AND VLAD, OUR SON TO BE.
MY HUSBAND, I--
HOLD! WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW!
YOU'RE GLOWING, DRACULA. A HALO SURROUNDS YOU! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
STAND BACK, WOMAN. I FEEL AS IF I'M BEING SUCKED INTO A WHIRLPOOL...
VANISHING INTO SOME FORGOTTEN LIMBO.
BUT, I WILL RETURN, DOMINI-- I WILL RETURN!
D-DRACULA--
...MY HUSBAND--
--WHERE ARE YOU...
...GOING--?

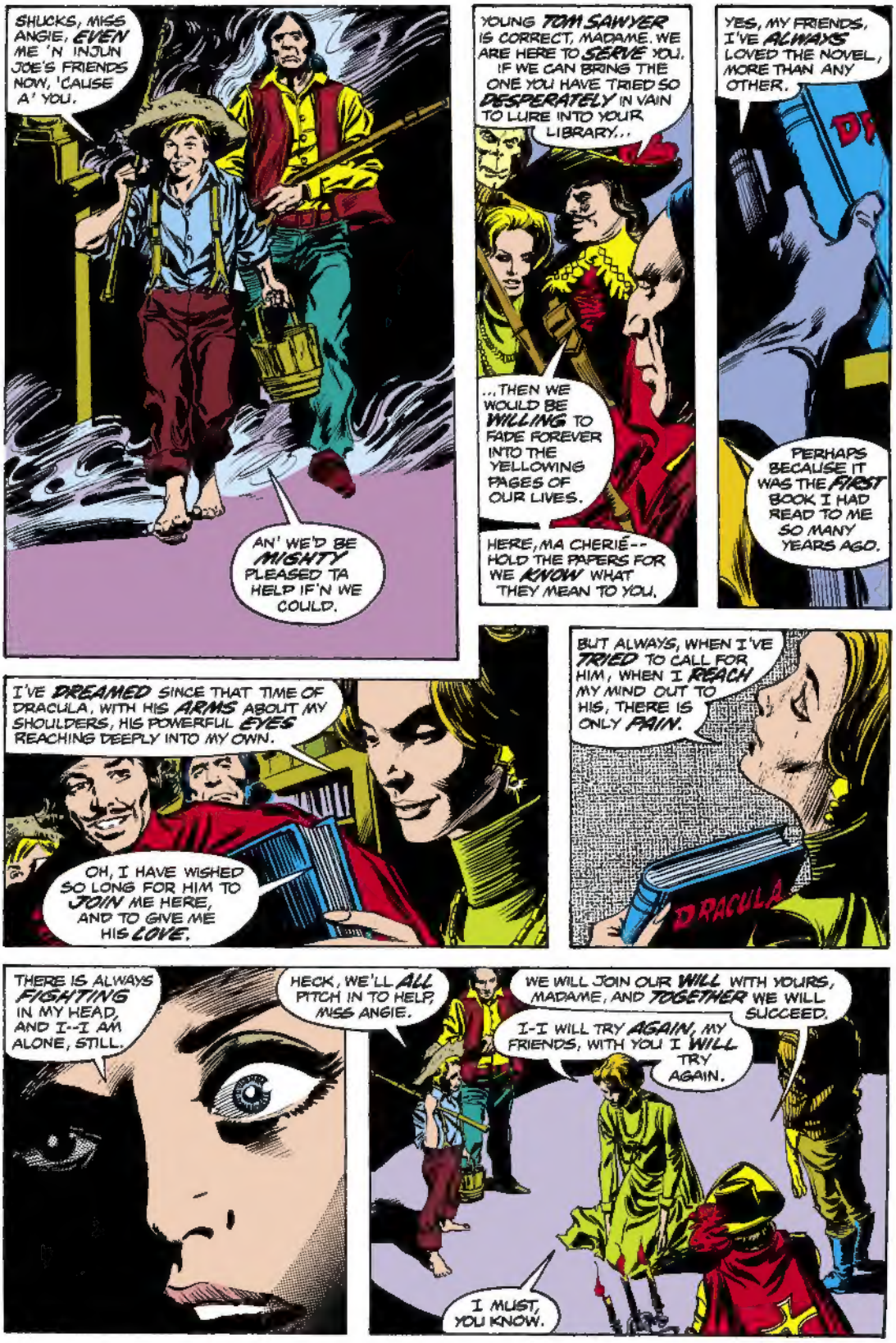
ELSEWHERE, IN A SMALL ROOM, A DIFFERENT EVENT TAKES PLACE, BUT ONE WHICH WILL SOON RELATE, IN A MANNER MOST BIZARRE, TO THE WORLD THAT DRACULA NOW STALKS THRU...
MOTHER OF MERCY--IT CAN'T BE!
DEACON FROST'S GOON TOLD US YOU EXISTED, BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT--NOT TILL NOW!
BLADE--LOOK!
I DO EXIST, BLADE, AND WHEN THIS BATTLE IS DONE--
--I WILL STILL BE HERE, AND YOU WILL BE DEAD!
I AM ALL THAT YOU ARE, BLADE, BUT I MOVE WITH THE SPEED OF ONE UNDEAD.
I THRUST WITH THE STRENGTH ONLY A VAMPIRE CAN MUSTER.
MY CHEEK!
MAYBE YOU'RE STRONGER AN' FASTER 'N ME, CREEP, BUT YOU AIN'T THE REAL BLADE.
AN' ONLY THE REAL McCOY CAN DO THIS, BABY!
DAMN YOU, BLADE!
THUNNG
YOU'VE PIERCED MY ARM...
BUT NOT EVEN YOUR FAMED WOODEN KNIFE CAN PREVENT ME FROM TURNING TO MIST--
--FROM FREEING MYSELF OF YOUR WEAPON.
AND FROM TURNING ON AND DESTROYING THE ONE I WAS CREATED FROM!

SHOCKED, BLADE? YOU THINK I JUST SOMEHOW APPEARED FROM THE MIST? I WAS CREATED FROM YOU. I WAS BORN AND NURTURED FROM THE SEED PLANTED WHEN MY MASTER MURDERED YOUR MOTHER.
WE GREW SIMULTANEOUSLY, BROTHER BLADE--YES, COUNTRIES APART WE GREW.
WE BECAME BOTH TOGETHER AND APART.
AND NOW THAT WE MEET, YOU MUST DIE!
ONLY ONE OF US CAN SURVIVE THIS BATTLE.
AND THAT ONE WILL BE ME.
DON'T BET ON IT, CREEP.
I'VE GOT DIRTY TRICKS I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF USING, YET!
AN', JUST 'CAUSE Y-- WHAT?!
OUR HANDS!
THEY MET THEY-THEY'VE FUSED TOGETHER...
I TOLD YOU WE WERE THE SAME BEING, FOOL.
WHEN WE TOUCH WE MELD TOGETHER--WE BECOME ONE AGAIN!
GOD! THEN I GOTTA KILL YOU--GET YOU OFFA ME--GET RIDDA YOU FOREVER!
YOU CAN'T-- YOU... ARRR-GGHH!
DOLT!
DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU CAN'T KILL ME, BLADE!
LOOK! OUR FEET TOUCH AND BECOME ONE. OUR BONES GROW TOGETHER ON CONTACT!
ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE, BLADE.
ACCEPT WHAT YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER!

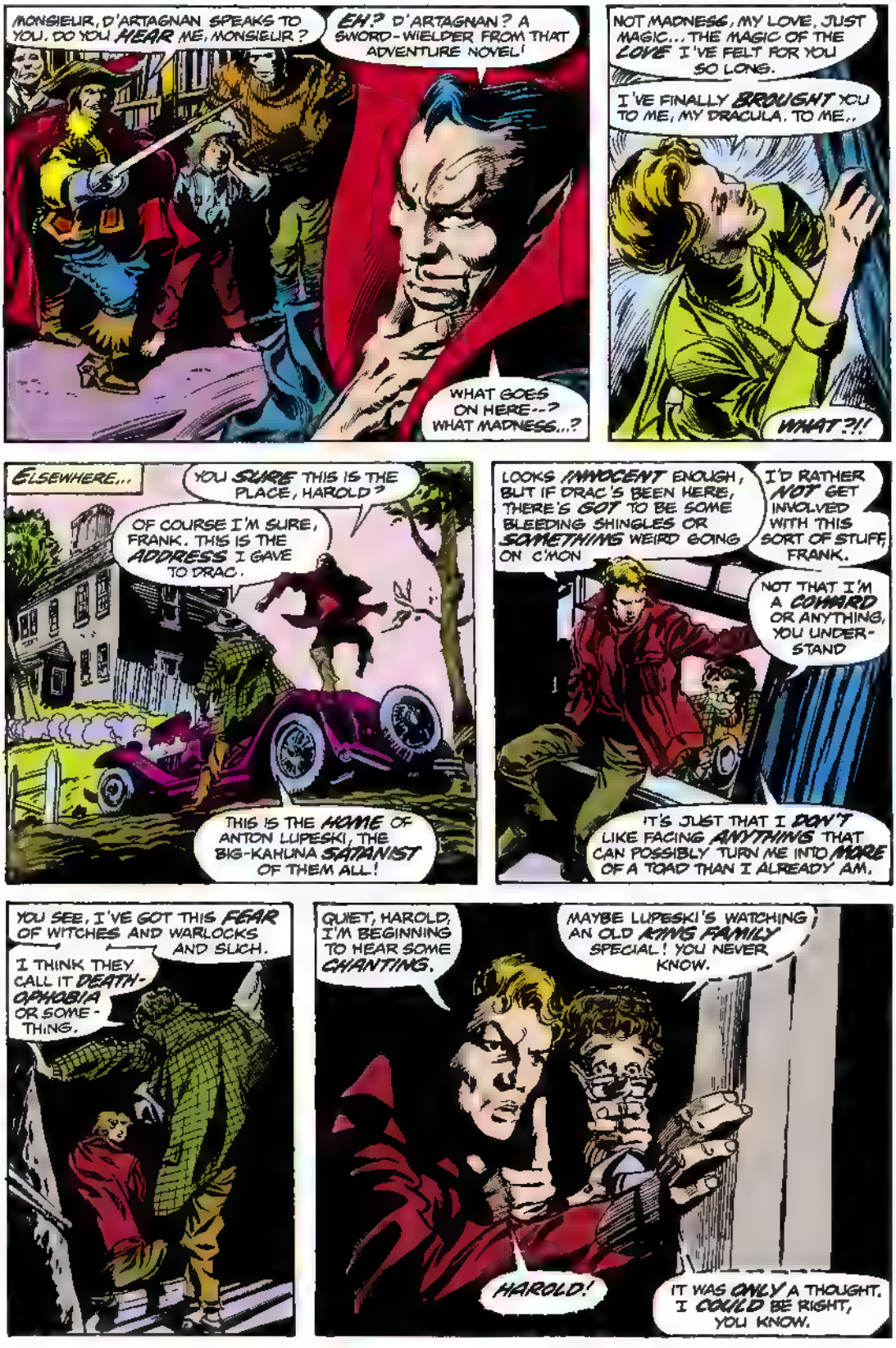
HELL, MAN, WHEN I CAN'T CONTROL WHAT'S COMIN' DOWN ON ME, I'LL GIVE UP!
AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, BROTHER-- BLADE NEVER GIVES UP!
NEVER!
"I WATCH, SHOCKED...
BLADE!
"...WONDERING IF EVEN A VAMPIRE DETECTIVE LIKE MYSELF COULD HELP."
HE'S GONE, BLADE, YOU DID IT!
YES, HANNIBAL KING, HE IS GONE...
I SAID IT WOULD BE INEVITABLE.
ONE OF US HAD TO DIE!
AND HE WAS THE ONE TO GO!
NOW, KING, I AM COMING FOR YOU.
I AM COMING TO DESTROY YOU AS WELL!

SOUND: LISTEN FOR IT AND YOU CAN LEARN WHAT MAKES A PERSON BREATHE, HOW THEY LIVE, WHAT THEY FEEL, AND WHY THEY ARE WHAT THEY ARE.
LISTEN, AND YOU WILL HEAR ALL THE SOUNDS THAT GROW HERE, THAT THRIVE HERE. YOU WILL HEAR THE SOUNDS OF HORROR AND OF LOVE, OF DEATH AND OF LIFE, OF SORROW AND OF JOY.
LISTEN:
I'M SO PLEASED YOU HAVE COME TO ME NOW, MY FRIEND.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE LAST SPOKE WITH EACH OTHER.
SINCE WE SHARED WITH EACH OTHER.
BUT...
...I CAN'T SPEND ALL MY TIME WITH YOU TODAY.
I PROMISED ...ANOTHER.
...SUCH A FRIEND, SUCH A LOVED ONE--
--TO BE WITH ON THESE COLD AND FRIGHTENING NIGHTS.
PLEASE COME.
YOU'LL LIKE HIM, I KNOW YOU WILL.
HE'S MUCH LIKE YOU, GENTLE, WARM...
BUT, PERHAPS, IF YOU WOULD LIKE, COME WITH ME.
I'M SURE HE WOULDN'T MIND.
THEN WE COULD BE TOGETHER ALL DAY.
NO, PLEASE DON'T-- DON'T BE SAD.
I HAVE TO GO, YOU MUST KNOW THAT.

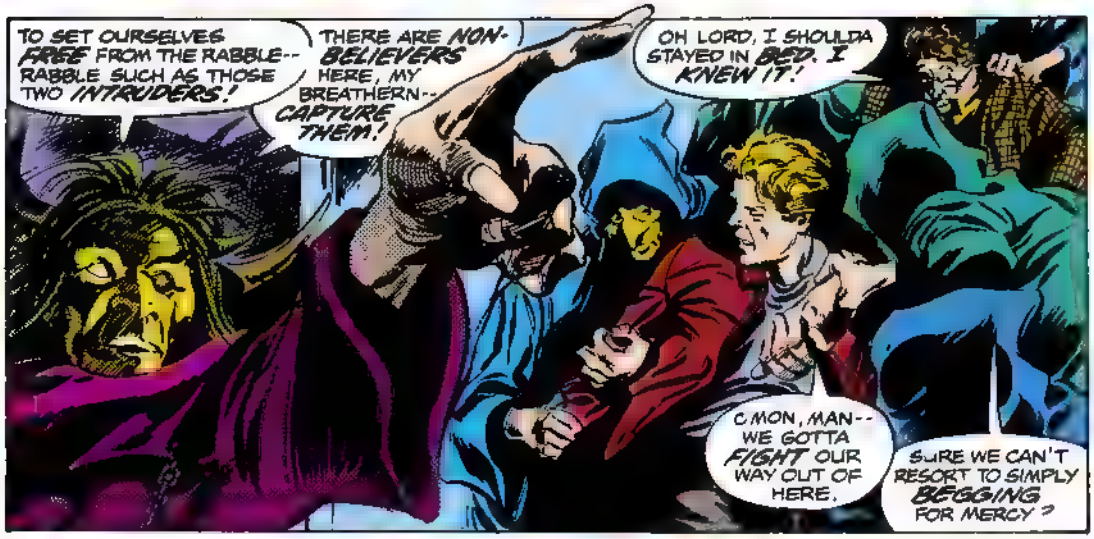

AH, MADAME, YOU HAVE COME AS YOU PROMISED!
D'ARTAGNAN SALUTES YOU, MON CHERE.
BUT, WHAT IS THIS? YOU BRING A MONSTER WITH YOU?
HE IS MY FRIEND, D'ARTAGNAN.
AH, THEN HE IS D'ARTAGNAN'S FRIEND AS WELL.
PERMIT ME INTRODUCTION, MY MONSTROUS ONE. I AM D'ARTAGNAN, OF THE MUSKETEERS, AT YOUR SERVICE.
AND I AM SLAVE TO OUR MISTRESS' WHIMS, AS WELL.
IS THERE ANYONE MA CHERIE WOULD LIKE TO BE WITH, TODAY?
I-I'M NOT SURE, D'ARTAGNAN. THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES HERE, AND I'VE READ ALMOST ALL.
I HAVE SO MANY FRIENDS HERE, LIKE YOURSELF, AND THE MONSTER, AND --
NO! I'LL NOT TORTURE MYSELF ANY MORE.
IT IS A FOOL-HARDY THING TO DO.
YOU DO HAVE MANY FRIENDS, MA CHERIE, AND WE KNOW THE TRUTH.
EVEN WITH US ALL HERE, YOU DO NOT HAVE THE ONE YOU ALWAYS WISHED FOR.
H-HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, MY FRIEND? I NEVER SPOKE OF MY FEELINGS.
YOU CREATED US, MILADY. WE ARE A PART OF YOU, AS WE ARE A PART OF THE BOOKS YOU TOOK US FROM.
WE ARE YOUR JOYS AND YOUR SORROWS, AND WE ARE YOUR LOVES.
IS IT ANY WONDER, THEN, MADAME, THAT WE LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE US?
OR THAT WE, MERE WORDS OF FICTION GRANTED FLESH AND BONE BY THE POWERS THAT ARE YOURS, KNOW WHAT SECRETS LIE IN YOUR HEART?
MADAME, WE ARE YOU, WE ARE WHAT YOU WISH US TO BE. WE CAN NOT HELP BEING ANY-THING ELSE BUT THE LOVE THAT IS IN YOUR HEART.

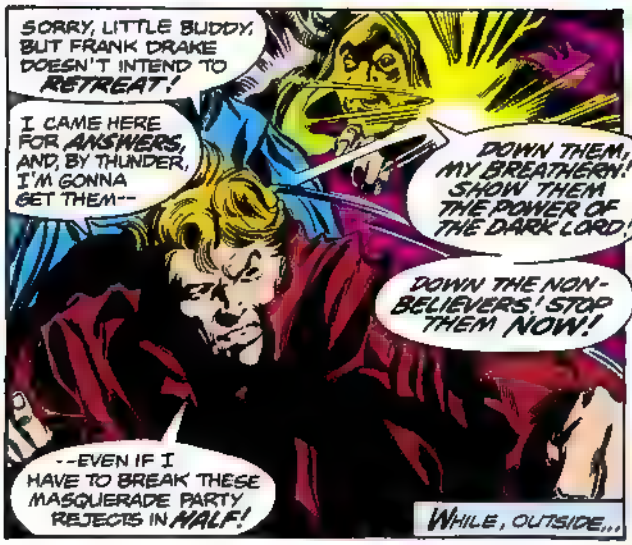

SHUCKS, MISS ANGIE, EVEN ME 'N INJUN JOE'S FRIENDS NOW, 'CAUSE A' YOU.
AN' WE'D BE MIGHTY PLEASED TA HELP IF'N WE COULD.
YOUNG TOM SAWYER IS CORRECT, MADAME. WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU. IF WE CAN BRING THE ONE YOU HAVE TRIED SO DESPERATELY IN VAIN TO LURE INTO YOUR LIBRARY...
..THEN WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FADE FOREVER INTO THE YELLOWING PAGES OF OUR LIVES.
HERE, MA CHERIÉ-- HOLD THE PAPERS FOR WE KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOU.
YES, MY FRIENDS, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE NOVEL, MORE THAN ANY OTHER.
PERHAPS BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST BOOK I HAD READ TO ME SO MANY YEARS AGO.
I'VE DREAMED SINCE THAT TIME OF DRACULA, WITH HIS ARMS ABOUT MY SHOULDERS, HIS POWERFUL EYES REACHING DEEPLY INTO MY OWN.
OH, I HAVE WISHED SO LONG FOR HIM TO JOIN ME HERE, AND TO GIVE ME HIS LOVE.
BUT ALWAYS, WHEN I'VE TRIED TO CALL FOR HIM, WHEN I REACH MY MIND OUT TO HIS, THERE IS ONLY PAIN.
DRACULA
THERE IS ALWAYS FIGHTING IN MY HEAD, AND I--I AM ALONE, STILL.
HECK, WE'LL ALL PITCH IN TO HELP, MISS ANGIE.
WE WILL JOIN OUR WILL WITH YOURS, MADAME, AND TOGETHER WE WILL SUCCEED.
I-I WILL TRY AGAIN, MY FRIENDS, WITH YOU I WILL TRY AGAIN.
I MUST, YOU KNOW.

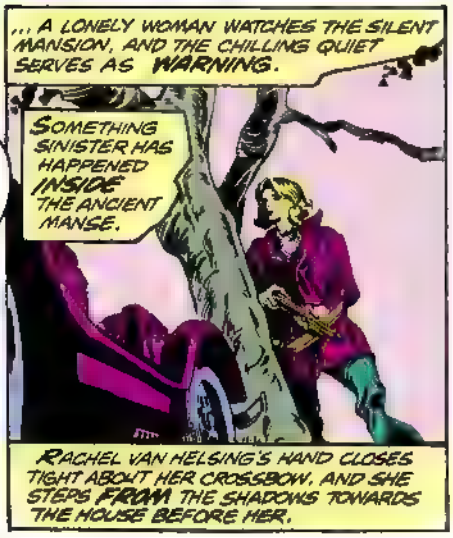
I TRY TO THINK OF THE WARMTH OF CLOVER AND THE JOYS OF SUNSHINE, THE LOVE I WANT.
I THINK OF DRACULA, AND I --OOOHHHHHHHHH!
MISS ANGIE!
NO, YOUNG TOM, LEAVE HER BE
THIS IS THE WAY SHE REACHES CONTACT. I HAVE WATCHED HER SO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST...
...AND I HAVE CRIED FOR HER EACH TIME IT HAS FAILED.
THIS IS THE WAY IT MUST BE. WE ALL LOVE HER, BUT SHE LOVES ANOTHER--A PHANTOM WRAITH WHO HAS ALWAYS RESISTED HER CALLING IN THE PAST.
NOW, COME -- LET US JOIN OUR MIND WITH HERS. IT IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR OUR CREATOR.
OOHHHHHHHH... HE IS COMING... THE PAIN! THE PAIN!
NOOOOOO!!!
MISS ANGIE!?
SACRE! IT IS HIM! THE ONE SHE HAS BEEN CALLING FOR!
IT IS DRACULA, MES AMIS-- IT IS DRACULA!!
LOOK! THERE'S SUM-THIN' GLOWIN' LIKE A FIREFLY OVER HER.
MILADY HAS SUCCEEDED.. SHE HAS SUCCEEDED!
AND THE SKY THUNDERS ITS ENDLESS SORROW IN RESPONSE.

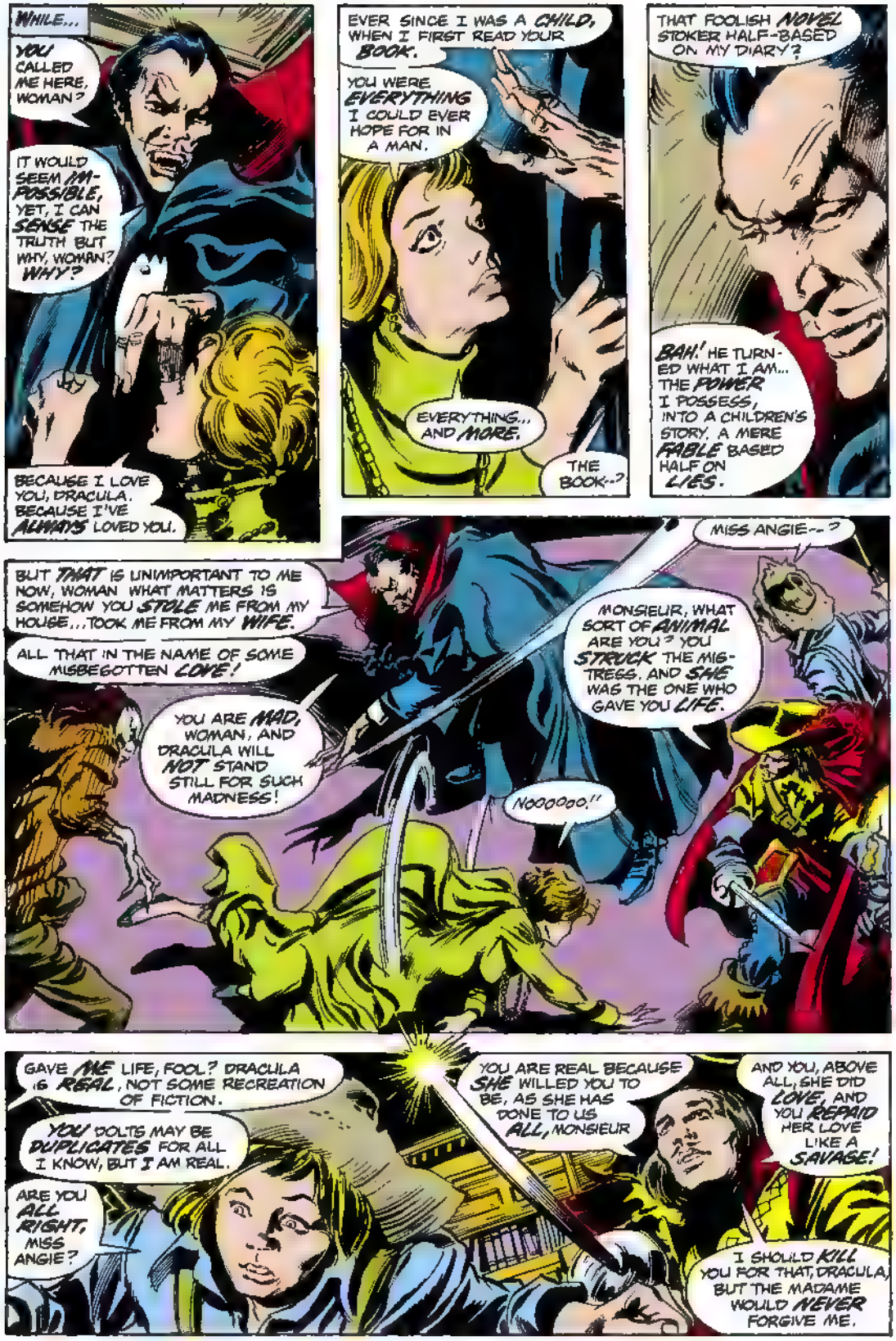

MONSIEUR, D'ARTAGNAN SPEAKS TO YOU. DO YOU HEAR ME, MONSIEUR?
EH? D'ARTAGNAN? A SWORD-WIELDER FROM THAT ADVENTURE NOVEL!
WHAT GOES ON HERE--? WHAT MADNESS...?
NOT MADNESS, MY LOVE, JUST MAGIC... THE MAGIC OF THE LOVE I'VE FELT FOR YOU SO LONG.
I'VE FINALLY BROUGHT YOU TO ME, MY DRACULA. TO ME..
WHAT?!!
ELSEWHERE...
YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE, HAROLD?
OF COURSE I'M SURE, FRANK. THIS IS THE ADDRESS I GAVE TO DRAC.
THIS IS THE HOME OF ANTON LUPESKI, THE BIG-KAHUNA SATANIST OF THEM ALL!
LOOKS INNOCENT ENOUGH, BUT IF DRAC'S BEEN HERE, THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME BLEEDING SHINGLES OR SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON C'MON
I'D RATHER NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THIS SORT OF STUFF, FRANK.
NOT THAT I'M A COWARD OR ANYTHING, YOU UNDERSTAND
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T LIKE FACING ANYTHING THAT CAN POSSIBLY TURN ME INTO MORE OF A TOAD THAN I ALREADY AM.
YOU SEE, I'VE GOT THIS FEAR OF WITCHES AND WARLOCKS AND SUCH.
I THINK THEY CALL IT DEATH-OPHOBIA OR SOMETHING.
QUIET, HAROLD, I'M BEGINNING TO HEAR SOME CHANTING.
MAYBE LUPESKI'S WATCHING AN OLD KING FAMILY SPECIAL! YOU NEVER KNOW.
HAROLD!
IT WAS ONLY A THOUGHT. I COULD BE RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

DON'T THINK SO, HAROLD. UNLESS THE KING FAMILY'S TAKEN TO WEARING BLACK ROBES.
TAKE A LOOKSEE AT THAT FREAK SHOW INSIDE.
THE TIME HAS COME, MY FOLLOWERS, TO FREE OURSELVES FROM THE SHADOWS WE HIDE IN.
HEY, I WISH I BROUGHT MY INSTIMATIC! THIS WOULD MAKE A GREAT PHOTO-FEATURE FOR "TRUE VAMPIRE STORIES"


TO SET OURSELVES FREE FROM THE RABBLE-- RABBLE SUCH AS THOSE TWO INTRUDERS!
THERE ARE NON-BELIEVERS HERE, MY BREATHERN-- CAPTURE THEM!
OH LORD, I SHOULDA STAYED IN BED. I KNEW IT.
C'MON, MAN-- WE GOTTA FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF HERE.
SURE WE CAN'T RESORT TO SIMPLY BEGGING FOR MERCY?


SORRY, LITTLE BUDDY, BUT FRANK DRAKE DOESN'T INTEND TO RETREAT!
I CAME HERE FOR ANSWERS, AND, BY THUNDER, I'M GONNA GET THEM--
DOWN THEM, MY BREATHERN! SHOW THEM THE POWER OF THE DARK LORD!
DOWN THE NON-BELIEVERS! STOP THEM NOW!
--EVEN IF I HAVE TO BREAK THESE MASQUERADE PARTY REJECTS IN HALF!
WHILE, OUTSIDE...

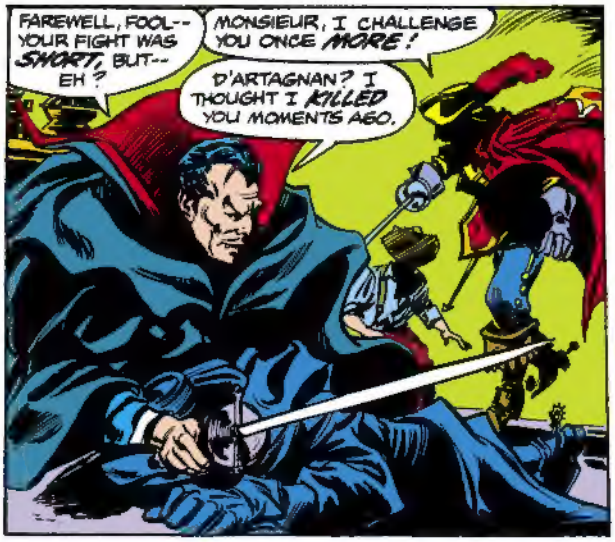

...A LONELY WOMAN WATCHES THE SILENT MANSION, AND THE CHILLING QUIET SERVES AS WARNING.
SOMETHING SINISTER HAS HAPPENED INSIDE THE ANCIENT MANSE.
RACHEL VAN HELSING'S HAND CLOSES TIGHT ABOUT HER CROSSBOW, AND SHE STEPS FROM THE SHADOWS TOWARDS THE HOUSE BEFORE HER.


WHILE...
YOU CALLED ME HERE, WOMAN?
IT WOULD SEEM IM-POSSIBLE, YET, I CAN SENSE THE TRUTH BUT WHY, WOMAN? WHY?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, DRACULA. BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, WHEN I FIRST READ YOUR BOOK.
YOU WERE EVERYTHING I COULD EVER HOPE FOR IN A MAN.
EVERYTHING... AND MORE.
THE BOOK--?
THAT FOOLISH NOVEL STOKER HALF-BASED ON MY DIARY?
BAH! HE TURNED WHAT I AM... THE POWER I POSSESS, INTO A CHILDREN'S STORY. A MERE FABLE BASED HALF ON LIES.
BUT THAT IS UNIMPORTANT TO ME NOW, WOMAN. WHAT MATTERS IS SOMEHOW YOU STOLE ME FROM MY HOUSE... TOOK ME FROM MY WIFE.
ALL THAT IN THE NAME OF SOME MISBEGOTTEN LOVE!
YOU ARE MAD, WOMAN, AND DRACULA WILL NOT STAND STILL FOR SUCH MADNESS!
MISS ANGIE--?
MONSIEUR, WHAT SORT OF ANIMAL ARE YOU? YOU STRUCK THE MISTRESS, AND SHE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU LIFE.
NOOOOOO!!
GAVE ME LIFE, FOOL? DRACULA IS REAL, NOT SOME RECREATION OF FICTION.
YOU DOLTS MAY BE DUPLICATES FOR ALL I KNOW, BUT I AM REAL.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS ANGIE?
YOU ARE REAL BECAUSE SHE WILLED YOU TO BE, AS SHE HAS DONE TO US ALL, MONSIEUR
AND YOU, ABOVE ALL, SHE DID LOVE, AND YOU REPAID HER LOVE LIKE A SAVAGE!
I SHOULD KILL YOU FOR THAT, DRACULA, BUT THE MADAME WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME.

YOU SHOULD KILL ME, DOLT?
WHAT DO YOU TAKE DRACULA FOR? A WEAK-KNEED MORTAL?
KNOW THIS, CRETIN--I AM DRACULA, PRINCE OF EVIL, LORD OF VAMPIRES! MASTER OF THE UNDEAD!
AND DRACULA FEARS NO LIVING MAN, BE HE REAL OR RECREATION!
AHA, MY FRIEND, THEN WILL YOU FEAR ME?
WHO--?
TURN AND SEE MY FACE, GOOD FELLOW, AND LEARN WHY THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM DID RUN IN FEAR WITH HIS TAIL 'TWEEN HIS LEGS...
...WHEN ROBIN HOOD APPEARED OUTSIDE OF FAIR SHERWOOD FOREST!
AWAY FROM HERE, VARLET. OUR HOME WITH THE MISTRESS WAS A PEACEFUL ONE 'TILL YOU SHOWED YOUR UGLY FACE.
ROBIN HOOD?!
THIS PLACE IS MADNESS D'ARTAGNAN, ROBIN HOOD--EVEN THE MONSTER--SO SIMILAR TO THE REAL FRANKENSTEIN CREATURE I BATTLED ALMOST A CENTURY PAST!
BUT HE, AND THE REST HERE ARE ALL FICTION.. FOOLS CREATED BY EQUALLY FOOLISH WRITERS.
I CAN NOT BE ATTACKED BY MERE WORDS AND THOUGHT--YET I AM!
SOMEHOW, HERE IN THIS LIBRARY--THE PLAY IS REAL BUT HOW--BUT HOW?!?

NOOO! PLEASE, STOP THE FIGHTING... ALL OF YOU. PLEASE STOP!
I DIDN'T CALL YOU ALL HERE TO DIE.
I-I ONLY WANTED YOU AS MY FRIENDS..
...MY ONLY FRIENDS.
HOW CAN YOU BE THIS WAY, DRACULA? HOW CAN YOU BE THE MAN LUCY WESTENRA LOVED?
YOU WERE SO KIND TO HER IN THE STORY. SO SWEET.
WESTENRA? THE NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
SHE WAS MINA HARKER'S FRIEND. DON'T YOU REMEMBER, DRACULA? SHE LOVED YOU.
BAH! I'VE SLAIN A THOUSAND TRAMPS SUCH AS SHE, WOMAN. HOW CAN I BE EXPECTED TO REMEMBER ANY ONE OF THEM FROM THE OTHERS?
NO, SHE AND ALL THE OTHERS LIKE HER WERE MERELY SUSTENANCE FOR ME.
EH? THE MONSTER?!
YOU SEEK TO FIGHT ME AS YOUR TRUE-LIFE COUNTERPART DID.
THUD
BUT YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN YOUR ATTACK, BEAST!
NO, MONSTER -- YOU WON'T SUCCEED!
THIS LIBRARY IS INSANITY ITSELF... RUN BY A WOMAN WHO LOVES THE STOKER-CREATED DRACULA --A PALE SHADOW OF MY TRUE NATURE.
I AM NOT THAT FOOL IN THE BOOK, WOMAN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
AND I WAS NOT CREATED HERE BY YOU, FEMALE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

SOMEHOW, THROUGH SOME POWER YOU POSSESS, YOU CREATED THE OTHERS... AND YOU SNATCHED ME FROM MY WIFE'S SIDE.
TOOK ME WHILE I EXPRESSED THE CALMNESS SHE HAD GIVEN MY SOUL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES...
A CALMNESS YOU AND YOUR FOOLISH CREATIONS ARE QUICKLY FORCING ME TO LOSE, WOMAN.
SEÑOR, LEAVE THE WOMAN ALONE!
CLIPITY CLOP CLI
WHO DARES--?
THE NAME IS ZORRO, SEÑOR-- ZORRO THE FOX!
AND I WILL NOT ALLOW MY MISTRESS TO BE HURT BY YOU.
LEAVE HER BE, SEÑOR, OR FEEL THE POINT OF MY SWORD CARVE MY INITIAL ACROSS YOUR HEART!
CLOP
CLIPITY CLOP
ZORRO? ANOTHER PHANTASM... ANOTHER ILLUSION GIVEN REALITY! THE WOMAN WAS MAD FOR HEROES!
BUT ALL HER HEROES SHALL SOON BE DEAD ONES!
WHATEVER HER POWER, DRACULA HAS GREATER POWERS!
FEEL MY POWER, FOX. FEEL THE POWER OF A TRUE MAN!
DIABLO!
NOW, FOOL--NOW YOU SHALL DIE!
AND YOU SHALL KNOW IT IS DRACULA WHO IS YOUR KILLER!
GRUNNGH


FAREWELL, FOOL-- YOUR FIGHT WAS SHORT, BUT-- EH?
MONSIEUR, I CHALLENGE YOU ONCE MORE!
D'ARTAGNAN? I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU MOMENTS AGO.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER-- I'LL SLAY YOU AGAIN-- THIS TIME WITH YOUR OWN WEAPON!
FOR, DRACULA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MASTER SWORDSMAN!
ARGH!
AND HE HAS NEVER LOST IN A BLOOD-DUEL TO THE DEATH!

... MADAME... I AM S-SORRY I HAVE FAILED... YOU.
...I... LOVED YOU... SO VERY... MUCH, MADAME...
...I AM... SORRY...
D'ARTAGNAN!?

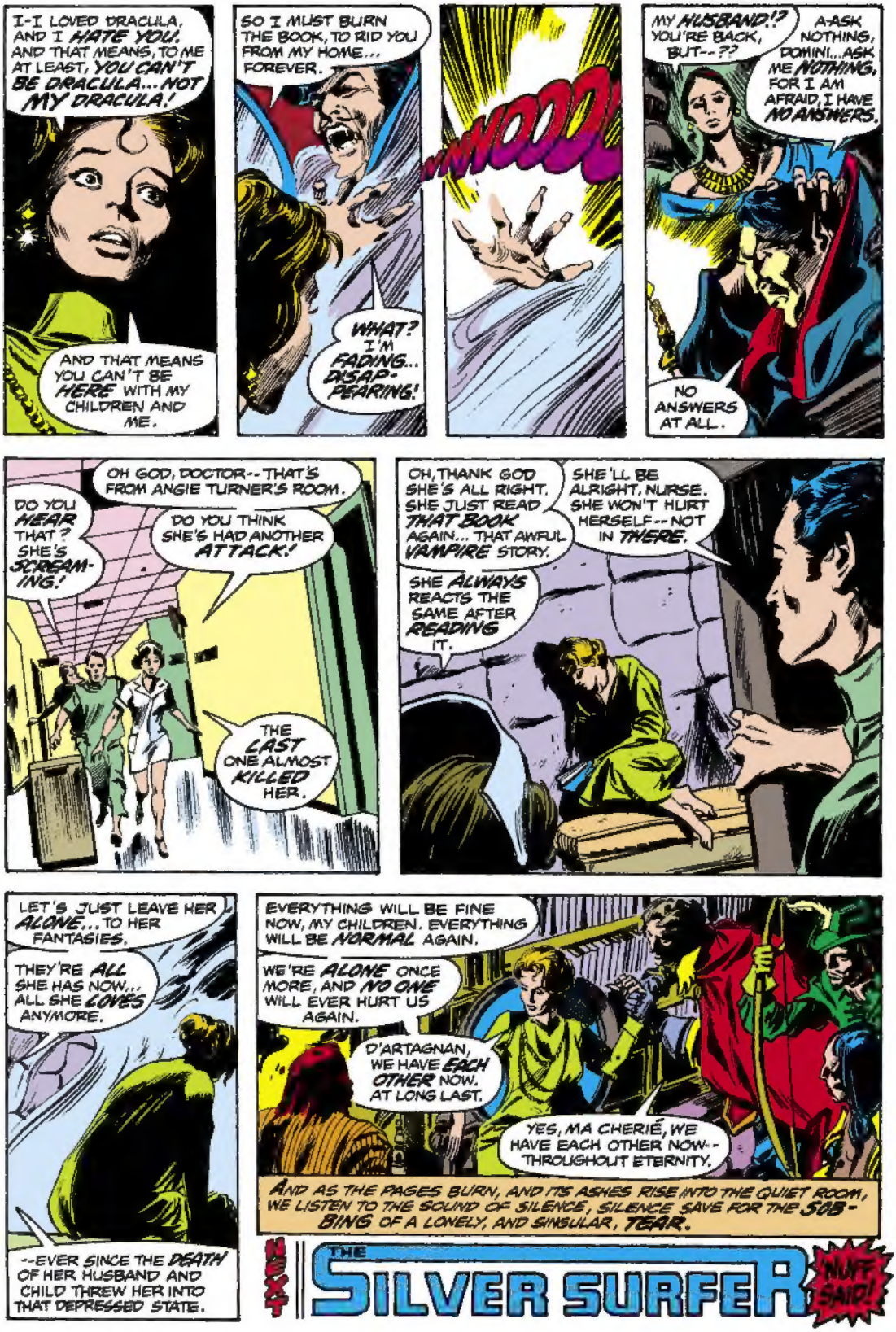
GOODBYE, MY LOVE.
BUT, IT WILL NOT BE GOODBYE FOREVER.
HE'S DEAD, MISS ANGIE.
BUT NOT GONE FROM MY HEART, TOM. NOT FROM MY HEART.

I-I LOVED YOU ONCE, DRACULA, OR RATHER, I LOVED THE DRACULA I THOUGHT YOU WERE.
THE MAN IN THE STORY, THE MAN OF STRENGTH, OF POWER, OF NOBILITY!

BUT YOU... YOU'RE SOME EVIL... SOMETHING AWFUL.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

BURNING THE NOVEL DOES NOTHING, WOMAN.

DRACULA WAS NOT YOUR CREATION. HE LIVES. AND HE THINKS FOR HIMSELF!
AND, BECAUSE HE DOES LIVE AND DOES THINK--
DRAC!
--YOU MUST DIE! IT HAS BEEN SO DECREED!


I-I LOVED DRACULA, AND I HATE YOU. AND THAT MEANS, TO ME AT LEAST, YOU CAN'T BE DRACULA... NOT MY DRACULA!
AND THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T BE HERE WITH MY CHILDREN AND ME.
SO I MUST BURN THE BOOK, TO RID YOU FROM MY HOME... FOREVER.
WHAT? I'M FADING... DISAP-PEARING!
WHOOO
MY HUSBAND!? YOU'RE BACK, BUT--??
A-ASK NOTHING, DOMINI...ASK ME NOTHING, FOR I AM AFRAID, I HAVE NO ANSWERS.
NO ANSWERS AT ALL.
OH GOD, DOCTOR-- THAT'S FROM ANGIE TURNER'S ROOM.
DO YOU HEAR THAT? SHE'S SCREAM-ING!
DO YOU THINK SHE'S HAD ANOTHER ATTACK!
THE LAST ONE ALMOST KILLED HER.
OH, THANK GOD SHE'S ALL RIGHT. SHE JUST READ THAT BOOK AGAIN... THAT AWFUL VAMPIRE STORY.
SHE'LL BE ALRIGHT, NURSE. SHE WON'T HURT HERSELF-- NOT IN THERE.
SHE ALWAYS REACTS THE SAME AFTER READING IT.
LET'S JUST LEAVE HER ALONE... TO HER FANTASIES.
THEY'RE ALL SHE HAS NOW... ALL SHE LOVES ANYMORE.
--EVER SINCE THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND AND CHILD THREW HER INTO THAT DEPRESSED STATE.
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE NOW, MY CHILDREN. EVERYTHING WILL BE NORMAL AGAIN.
WE'RE ALONE ONCE MORE, AND NO ONE WILL EVER HURT US AGAIN.
D'ARTAGNAN, WE HAVE EACH OTHER NOW. AT LONG LAST.
YES, MA CHERIÉ, WE HAVE EACH OTHER NOW-- THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.
AND AS THE PAGES BURN, AND ITS ASHES RISE INTO THE QUIET ROOM, WE LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF SILENCE, SILENCE SAVE FOR THE SOB-BING OF A LONELY, AND SINGULAR, TEAR.
NEXT
THE SILVER SURFER
'NUFF SAID!